GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:660
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002
IMPORT OF DIESEL
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the new Exim Policy, the import of diesel and petrol is to be handled only by the State Trading enterprises;

(b) whether the petroleum sector has been de-regulated and new marketing companies have entered;

(c) if so, the manner in which this proposal could be enforced without the consensus of private players in the oil sector;

(d) whether the past record of India`s State trading enterprises being dismal, the prime STC (State Trading Corporation) is on the verge of being wound up and disinvested;

(e) whether the Government have identified any STC to handle the sensitive issue of petroleum imports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 660 TO BE ANSWE ON 10th May, 2002 REGARDING IMPORT OF DIESEL

(a) to (f) Import of High Speed Diesel (HSD), Light Diesel Oil (LDO) and Motor Spirit have been always allowed only through the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). This Policy continues even today and IOC is the only designated State Trading Enterprise. It is true that the marketing of Diesel and Petrol has been opened up for new players. Since there has been no change in import policy, the question of consensus of private players in the oil sector has not arisen.

State Trading Corporation of India Ltd (STC) is not the designated State Trading Enterprise for these products. Nevertheless, the past record of State Trading Corporation of India Ltd (STC) has not been dismal and it has been making profits consistently. However, STC is being disinvested, and not wound up, under the extant policy of the Government.